

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 716

To establish a Consortium on the Impact of Technology in Aging Health Services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KOHL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a Consortium on the Impact of Technology
in Aging Health Services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Consortium on the Im-
5 pact of Technology in Aging Health Services Act of
6 2007”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSORTIUM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Con-
9 sortium to be known as the “Consortium on the Impact

1 of Technology in Aging Health Services” (referred to in
2 this Act as the “Consortium”).

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Consortium is to
4 evaluate the potential of new technologies to help the
5 United States prepare for the unprecedented demographic
6 changes that will occur during the next 10 years in the
7 Nation’s healthcare system.

8 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Consortium shall be
10 composed of 17 members, of whom—

11 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
12 President and designated by the President as
13 Chairperson of the Consortium;

14 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
15 Majority Leader of the Senate;

16 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
17 Minority Leader of the Senate;

18 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

20 (E) 4 members shall be appointed by the
21 Minority Leader of the House of Representa-
22 tives.

23 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Appointments to the
25 Consortium shall be made from individuals who

are senior-level executives from the Federal Government or the private-sector who have demonstrated experience as—

(i) providers of senior, geriatric, and other assistive services, including housing, nursing care, home-and-community based services, and assisted living and caregiver organizations;

(ii) technology developers or producers of products for aged individuals;

(iii) Federal, State, or academic researchers that focus on aging issues;

(iv) physicians and other health care providers;

(v) insurers and other payer organizations; and

(vi) representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.

(B) INCLUSION OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—At least 2 appointees shall be—

(i) age 65 or older; or

(ii) an individual with a disability.

(3) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Consortium shall be made

1 not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (d) TERM; VACANCIES.—

4 (1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for
5 the life of the Consortium.

6 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Consor-
7 tium—

8 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Con-
9 sortium; and

10 (B) shall be filled, not later than 30 days
11 after the Consortium is given notice of the va-
12 cancy, in the same manner as the original ap-
13 pointment was made.

14 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after
15 the date on which all members of the Consortium have
16 been appointed, the Consortium shall hold the initial meet-
17 ing of the Consortium.

18 (f) MEETINGS.—The Consortium shall meet at the
19 call of the Chairperson.

20 (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
21 Consortium shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
22 ber of members may hold hearings.

23 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

24 (a) STUDY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium shall con-
2 duct a study of all matters relating to the potential
3 use of new technology to assist older adults and
4 their caregivers throughout the aging process.

5 (2) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—The matters to
6 be studied by the Consortium shall include—

7 (A) methods for identifying technology that
8 can be adapted to meet the needs of seniors, in-
9 dividuals with disabilities, and the caregivers of
10 such seniors and individuals across all aging
11 services settings;

12 (B) methods for fostering scientific innova-
13 tion with respect to aging services technology
14 within the business and academic communities;

15 (C) identifying barriers to innovation in
16 aging services technology and devising strate-
17 gies for removing such barriers;

18 (D) developments in aging services tech-
19 nology in other countries that may be applied in
20 the United States;

21 (E) methods for ensuring that businesses
22 in the United States have a leadership role in
23 the rapidly expanding global market of aging
24 services technology; and

1 (F) identifying barriers to the adoption of
2 aging services technology by health care pro-
3 viders and consumers and devising strategies to
4 removing such barriers.

5 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Consortium shall de-
6 velop recommendations with respect to the following:

7 (1) Identification of developments in current
8 aging services technologies that may result in in-
9 creased efficiency and cost savings to the healthcare
10 system.

11 (2) Opportunities for ongoing research and de-
12 velopment by the public and private sectors to accel-
13 erate the development and adoption of aging services
14 technology in order to—

15 (A) promote the independence of seniors
16 and individuals with disabilities;

17 (B) facilitate early disease detection;

18 (C) delay the physical, cognitive, social,
19 and emotional decline resulting from disease
20 and the aging process;

21 (D) support wellness activities and preven-
22 tive behaviors;

23 (E) promote greater support to
24 community- and facility-based caregivers;

1 (F) develop systems that improve the qual-
 2 ity and efficiency of facility-based care, such as
 3 pharmacy distribution programs and secure
 4 electronic clinical records;

5 (G) enhance the utilization of technology
 6 by caregivers to reduce the burden of paper-
 7 work;

8 (H) minimize caregiver burnout; and

9 (I) reduce medication errors and improve
 10 overall compliance.

11 (3) Identification of methods to ensure that
 12 necessary technology infrastructure is in place to de-
 13 liver aging services to rural and urban areas.

14 (4) Whether to establish—

15 (A) a permanent Federal interagency task
 16 force that will facilitate the development and
 17 distribution of aging services technology; and

18 (B) a National Resource Center that would
 19 stimulate research, oversee demonstration
 20 projects, and provide training and technical as-
 21 sistance to Federal, State, and private sector
 22 organizations and entities that provide aging
 23 services.

1 (5) Assignment of responsibilities for aging
2 services with respect to jurisdiction, funding, and re-
3 porting relationships.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Consortium shall submit
6 to the President and the appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress a report that contains the recommendations of the
8 Consortium with respect to the following:

9 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY.—The
10 development of a national policy to address issues
11 with respect to technology and assistive health serv-
12 ices for seniors, including the appropriate roles and
13 responsibilities for the Federal Government, State
14 and local governments, and the private sector.

15 (2) LEGISLATIVE AND PROGRAM CHANGES.—
16 The specific legislative and regulatory changes with
17 respect to Federal laws and programs that would
18 support and encourage the private sector to develop
19 and make widely available consumer-empowered
20 technology solutions.

21 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCE
22 CENTER.—The establishment of a National Resource
23 Center on Aging Services Technologies to offer
24 training and assistance to the Federal Government,
25 State and local governments, and the private sector

1 in the application of technology in pilots and trials
2 with respect to assistive health services for seniors.

3 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The Consortium may hold such
5 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such
6 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Consortium
7 considers advisable to carry out this Act.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium may secure
10 directly from a Federal agency such information as
11 the Consortium considers necessary to carry out this
12 Act.

13 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Except as
14 otherwise provided by law, on request of the Chair-
15 person of the Consortium, the head of the agency
16 shall provide the information to the Consortium.

17 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Consortium may use
18 the United States mails in the same manner and under
19 the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Gov-
20 ernment.

21 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Consortium may
22 contract with and compensate government and private
23 agencies or persons for services, without regard to section
24 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

1 (e) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
 2 ber or agent of the Consortium may, if authorized by the
 3 Consortium, take any action which the Consortium is au-
 4 thorized to take by this section.

5 (f) GIFTS.—The Consortium may accept, use, and
 6 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

7 (g) PRINTING.—For purposes of costs relating to
 8 printing and binding, including the costs of personnel de-
 9 tailed from the Government Printing Office, the Consor-
 10 tium shall be deemed to be a committee of Congress.

11 **SEC. 5. CONSORTIUM PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

12 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the
 13 Consortium shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or
 14 benefits by reason of their service on the Consortium.

15 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Consor-
 16 tium shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
 17 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee
 18 of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
 19 5, United States Code, while away from the home or reg-
 20 ular place of business of the member in the performance
 21 of the duties of the Consortium.

22 (c) STAFF.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Con-
 24 sortium may, without regard to the civil service laws
 25 (including regulations), appoint and terminate an ex-

1 executive director and such other additional personnel
2 as are necessary to enable the Consortium to per-
3 form the duties of the Consortium.

4 (2) COMPENSATION.—

5 (A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The executive
6 director shall be paid the rate of basic pay for
7 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
8 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

9 (B) OTHER STAFF.—The staff shall be ap-
10 pointed subject to the provisions of title 5,
11 United States Code, government appointments
12 in the competitive service, and shall be paid in
13 accordance with the provisions of chapter 51
14 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title
15 relating to classification and General Schedule
16 pay rates.

17 (d) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
18 EES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal
20 Government may be detailed to the Consortium
21 without reimbursement.

22 (2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the
23 employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil
24 service status or privilege.

1 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
 2 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Consortium
 3 may procure temporary and intermittent services in ac-
 4 cordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States
 5 Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily
 6 equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay pay-
 7 able for the General Schedule.

8 (f) PHYSICAL FACILITIES.—The Administrator of the
 9 General Services Administration shall locate suitable office
 10 space for the operation of the Consortium. The facilities
 11 shall serve as the headquarters of the Consortium and
 12 shall include all necessary equipment and incidentals re-
 13 quired for the proper functioning of the Consortium.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 16 this Act \$1,500,000, for the period of fiscal years 2008
 17 through 2011, to remain available until expended.

18 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF CONSORTIUM.**

19 The Consortium shall terminate 180 days after the
 20 date on which the Consortium submits the report required
 21 under section 3(c).

